

Institution

Vancouver Island University

Principal Researcher

Gordon Clark

Research Field

Tourism and Economic
Development

Student Involvement

1 student employed

Partners & Collaborators

World Tourism Organization

Funding Sources

World Tourism Organization

Project Location

Spain, WTO Headquarters

Student research informs the World Tourism Organization

Gordon Clark, a student in Vancouver Island University's Masters in Sustainable Leisure Management program, conducted research for the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in Spain to inform visa policy development. This work was performed as part of Gordon's fieldwork portion of the graduate program.

Visa policies are among the most important governmental formalities influencing international tourism. In association with national and international governing bodies, the World Tourism Organization conducts research on visa policies, international tourism markets and visa processing technology to assist countries and regions maximize tourism growth.

As a student-trainee performing quantitative analysis on countries' visa policies and tourism arrival and outbound data, this research is an opportunity to see how travel flows affect visa polices and vise versa. In the application of this research, it is interesting to see how countries respond to visa policy advice generated in these studies. "This experience was a great way to understand how research informs policy, which I hope to use in my career," says Gordon. "I was fortunate to have this opportunity to use my quantitative skills and to be a part of tourism at the international level."

